(Continued from Page 1)

you, if discretion had been shown in that direction, would you regard that as an unwise policy?" Ashford, after some thought, admitted he would.

Aiken said he thought the land laws of the Territory are sadly in cut in the field last year. need of revision. It was originally work for immigrants.

copied from the land laws of New Mr. Ivers briefly reviewed the work Zealand. He would divide the pub- of the Territorial Board of Immigralic lands into three divisions for tion. He said the Russians, while not handling-one, the sugar lands he good plantations laborers, are good would have leased to sugar planters; workers in other occupations. all other cultivated land to home- Fisher asked about the obstruction steaders, and the high land, of small of immigrants going away, bringing value and fit only for grazing, he up the matter of immigrants arrested

ford and Aiken agreed that the home- past. true no longer, under the amended lic charges.

est. That was disputed.

L. Tenney Peck was called into the you," smiled Secretary Fisher. 8 per cent is the legal rate.

ury rate is, and the latter said he said he did not. had never tried to use it and there. This ended the morning hearing fore was not an authority on that except for some desultory question-

whether the Secretary intends visit will continue at 9:30 o'clock tomoring Maul before returning home, Mr. row morning. Fisher said he hopes to be able to visit Maul and inspect some of the homesteading experiments mentioned DETAILED STORY OF by the land agent.

In response to a question by Mr. Fisher, Ashford stated his opinion that three years' bons fide residence on homesteads should be sufficient to perfect title in this regard. He also thought that the choice of the mestead system to be followed uld rest with the homesteader intead of the Governor or the Terri-

The discussion then turned on legal judication of the Governor's discreon under the present laws, and Ash-ord, while admitting that the Susteader in the Kaiwiki case, said that this case did not involve the stion of the Governor's discretion. attorney Olson thereupon referred to nother case, the Graham case, inolving the Governor's discretion, had een settled in favor of discretionary owers for the Governor, in the Cirthis would not necessarily mean fi-nal adjudication of the question. chard Ivers Called

After this, Richard Ivers of Brewe clared that it would be a good thing for the sugar trade to have the lands held in smaller hold-ings, provided that the lands would be really worked, as this would solve

the pressing labor problem.

He said he thought the plantations ould be glad to make contracts with

sugar mills for cane raised by home steaders, Mr. Ivers said that no mill would be willing to increase its capacity without assurance of a contract of some years.

He declared that there is actual

mpetition among Hilo mills, and that he has never heard of an agree ment among mills of this Territo as to the price they would pay for sugar. He also said there is much otion as to the sugar profits

Secretary Fisher then turned to the question of whether there is any "wa-tering" of stock by plantation corporations. Mr. Ivers said that possibly in two or three instances plantations which were unusually and unexpect-edly profitable, more might have been put in stock than the actual investment in the plantations.

Asked as to the relative efficiency of various races, Mr. Ivers said this depended on the occupation, saying that Hawaiians were most efficient as teamsters, combows, etc.; Portu-guese at pick and shovel work, and Japanese in cane hoeing and work of that kind. He said the steady work on the plantations does not appeal to the Hawaiian, and doubted whether the Portuguese working for himself now is as progressive as the Jap-He declared that "there is no work

in the Hawalian Islands that the white man can't do if he chooses to do so. There is a good deal of sentiment against a white man working

Asked if a successful homesteading system by whites would result in a system of tenant farmers by Japanese or others, he said he didn't know.

White men might stay if they could-make a good living.
"Do the plantations want to bring these immigrants here as laborers or holders?" asked Mr. Fisher

"In the beginning they might have come as laborers, but I don't think, or Hawalians, or Portuguese, or Ja-Mr. Secretary, that you will find that the plantations are in favor of land-

Mr. Ivers also ventured the opinion that if fifteen years ago the Islands were cut up into homesteads, that now either the system would be what it is at present or there would be no swear industry here. A laugh was raised when Mr. Ivers said the plan-tations are not in business for their

health. Secretary Fisher queried Mr. Ivers as to whether or not, if there had been a law against the large private holdings, the government would have

vate capital has done.

Feeling Against Planters.

The Secretary then asked Mr. Ivers tion camps below.

if he were conscious of any antagonism on the part of the community to the planting interests, Mr. Ivers said he is not conscious of any such of a few individuals who had lived ment? here a long time and "seen opportunities pass them by."

He also said that the pineapple industry's prosperity depends upon the sugar industry indirectly.

He said three Brewer & Co. plantations near Hilo last year paid an aggregate of about \$850,000 for cane

lease as such to any applicas witnesses when trying to get away to the Coast. Ivers said this might Fisher then made inquiry into the have been done in one or two in-Territorial laws, affecting the home stances, and explained briefly the steader who forfeits his rights. Ash- raids made on Hawaiian labor in the

steader was paid back the value of Mr. Ivers told how California obhis improvements. Governor Frear, jects to immigration largely because asked if this were so, said it is not of the fact that laborers have been It was the old law, but he said is brought from Hawaii and become pub-

"I can understand the exasperation Aiken said that 7 and 8 per cent is you feel here when you bring in labor the usual and the legal rate of inter- at considerable expense and someone comes along and takes it away from

discussion as apparently the only livers was asked by Attorney Olson banker in the chamber. He said that a little later if he knew of any homesteads taken up under Governor A general laugh was raised when Frear's administration which have Fisher asked Mr. Peck what the us- since been sold or leased. Mr. Ivers

ing on minor points, and Secretary Mr. Aiken, on being excused, asked Fisher announced that the hearings

## FISHER HEARING TODAY

Fisher: Well, gentlemen, we will not wait for the Delegate; Mr. Ash-

Mr. Alken, will you take one of these chairs over here? I understand that you are planning to go away at noon and before you go I thought we had better take advantage of your being here to ask you some questions. What is your full

Alken: Worth O. Alken. Fisher: Where do you live? Pisher: What is your occupation? Aiken: Small farming generally. When did you first come

Aiken: In 1891. Fisher: And if I may ask, how old were you then?

Fisher: How soon did you begin to What do you mean?

Well I mean independent of your own accord; tell us how you got into the Government employ.

Aiken: I went into the Government employ when I first came here.
At first I taught school; in fact I practically worked for myself the second day after I landed here.

Fisher: When did you first become what you call a "small farmer?" Atken: Well, like many others, I came here and acquired a wife and family and had to do something to support them, so I started to work for

What year was that? Afken: In 1900. Fisher: What did you do, tell us

Started Small Farming.

Aiken: Well I had to get a house for myself, so I looked around and nd a place that was vacant and

Where was this? In Makawao. On what island?

Maui. How large a tract was it' Some 300 acres. Fisher:

Aiken: At the time I bought it, it

long to an Englishman named von Did he have a title to the and; did you buy it from him?
Alken: Yes, I bought it from him.

Fisher: What kind of land was it? Aiken: It was originally planted to coffee; it was well adapted to it. Parts of it were planted in cane. The custom was at that time to plant cane on the upper lands where there was more

rainfall; and use the lower lands for dairying purposes. Fisher: What was it being used for

when you bought it? Alken: Chiefly for dairying. What did you use it for? Have you ever undertaken to raise

any cane on it? Fisher: Are there other small farmers in that vicinity?

Aiken: There are quite a number? Aiken: Yes sir. How large tracts do they

Well, anywhere from 40 to Fisher: Are they what have been called whites here in this discussion,

Aiken: Well, we have practically all races there-Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Hawaiians and "whites,"

as you call them. Many Small Holders. Fisher: Among these people are there those who have small holdings?

Aiken: Yes, sir. Fisher: Now, do any of them raise cane on the lands? Aiken: No.

Fisher: In what kind of farming are they usually engaged? Alken: Some hundred odd Portuguese families are living just back of developed the industry. Mr. Ivers us; their chief crop is grapes. There doubted if the government could is a winery there and they sell their have done it as successfully as priraising a great mnay vegetables which they take to sell in the plants-

Alken: They own their own lands. Fisher: How did they acquire title-by purchase from individuals, and no roads up to the different lots. feeling except possibly on the part or by homsteadings from the Govern-

quired by purchase; but some were acquired from the Government by homesteading.

Fisher: Had the lands which they acquired ever been used to raise sugar cane? Aiken: No, they had never been

used for that purpose. Fisher: Was none of this land which is held in small tracts ever used for sugar cane land?

Aiken: Well, with the exception of a part of the tract I have and a little below, that is lower down, but not much of it.

Fisher: Are there large sugar plantations in that vicinity? Aiken: Yes, within a mile of my place there is a plantation camp, but they are for the most part further down. I believe I am the highest planter in the Territorfy (in eleva tion).

Fisher: Would this land belonging to these small holders be adapted to raising sugar cane?

Aiken: Yes, certain varieties, Fisher? Is there any reason why the lands to which you have referred could not be used to raise sugar cane, except that the people prefer to raise other crops?

Aiken: No, they are not as well adapted to cane raising, but cane can be raised there. Fisher: The fact that cane is not raised here is not due to any unwillingness on the part of the plantation to take the sugar that is raised?

Willing to Take Sugar. Aiken: The plantations are always willing to take any sugar that is

iFsher: When did you become connected with the Government, and in Alken: In 1901 I was employed in the Tax Department, where I worked

Fisher: What duties did you hav in this office? Aiken: I was Deputy Tax Asses-

sor and Collector for the district. Fisher: Then you are thoroughly familitr with the land situation there. Aiken: Yes, sir. Fisher: Have you been connected

with the Government ever since? Aiken: Yes. Fisher: In what capacity? Aiken: I was Tax Assessor for

some 13 years; and in 1905 I was ap-Fisher: What are your duties? Aiken: As Land Agent I super vise the government lands there chiefly; and after the lands are opened up and cut up into lots for

mesteads everything is put in my hands to receive applications: 1 have general charge over the whole Fisher:/ How much land has been opened to homesteaders under your supervision, approximately, of course? Aiken: I suppose perhaps 6,000 or

Fisher: Tell us in your own way what your experience has been with Alken: Well, the first tract open ed was in the Nahiku District, about 100 acres of land. In 1897 great excoffee land. It seemed very well adapted as coffee land. However coffee industry, as the cost of plant settlers proved up by living there the required time. A majority were Portuguese. Some of the lands were taken up by white settlers under Spe cial agreements, which contained no residence clause but required that money be put in improvements. Most of the lands were acquired by the settlers and patents issued.

Fisher: What happened after they Aiken: Well, later the coffee industry proved not to be a uccess. The land then laid idle for some time Then an attempt was made to start

a sugar plantation there. Fisher: Who attempted to start a sugar plantation there?

Plantation Proved Failure. Alken: It was started among the settlers themselves. But it proved a thing? failure, as the land proved not to be adapted to cane, so the plantation was finally closed down. Since that time the lands have been standing

Fisher: Have they been sold? Aiken: Three rubber companies are planting rubber there now. Fisher: Who are the people?

Aiken: The holdings are quite Fisher: Are they people of large

or small means? Alken: People of moderate means. Fisher: Even the rubber experiment is not being carried on by peo-

ple of large means? Alken: No. Well what has happened Aiken: It is running along all

right. The Nahiku Rubber Company is getting along fine and expect to get enough rubber next year to pay Fisher: Are the settlers still liv-

Aiken: Most of them have moved rubber company. Fisher: Then that effort has not was very much against opening up the lands were taken up entirely unresulted in getting a population on the lands at all. the grounds?

Aiken: No, for the reason that the climatic conditions are not favorable, and also due to the matter of transportation.

Fisher: What was the reason for the failure of the coffee plantation? Reasons for Failure. Aiken: The chief reason for fail-

ure was due to the expense of picking the coffee; with the price they had to pay for labor they could not compete with the market. Fisher: Was the failure due to high cost of picking, or to the lack of

transportation facilities? Aiken: Well, mostly to high cost of pickings, as they didn't get as far the subject, and it was opened up chase of the plant, as marketing their coffee. But the As I say, if it had been opened up as Fisher: Does that include his own expense of transportation would have pasture land it would have been bet labor?

as the road facilities were poor. The lands are rather high up in the woods Pisher: New you spoke of the cost of picking-why did it cost so much

to pick the coffee? Aiken: Well laobr could not be obtained for less than a dollar a day, and picking is a slow process. Fisher: Did the settlers themselves pick the coffee?

Aiken: They worked themselves: most of them were Portugueses; but had to hire additional help when the coffee needed to be picked, and the expense was what made it unproxi-Fisher: Then they subsequently

tried sugar cane on these lands and this turned out badly? Alken: Yes. Fisher: Was this due to the clima-

tie conditions, or to transportation facilities in getting the cane to the Aiken: The failure was purely dueto the character of the soil and clima-

point of getting to a mill.

Fisher: With what other homesteading venture are you acquainted? Alken: There has been very suc cessful homesteading a little further along, in the nature of opening up small holdings in taro lands in the Hawaiian community. They were given house lots of two or three acres each and from one-half to one acre of taro land. So far they have been very successful and are doing very

Pisher: Now where do these people work; do they confine their laobr egclusively to their own tare patch, or do they work in the neighboring plantations?

Work on Roads. Aiken: There is no plantation in that vicinity; but they get work on the roads and trails being built in that locality.

Fisher: Suppose this road work should cease or largely diminish, then they would have to depend upon liv-ing upon the produce that they raise. Do you think they could make a living on their own products if this work were taken away from them?

Aiken: Yes, I think they raise sufficient food for themselves there. A good many go down to the Kahului Railroad Company and work; some go to Hana and work on the planta-

Fisher: How far are these planta-Alken: Hana is about 25 miles; some plantations are 40 or 50 miles. Fisher: Do the families stay on

Alken: They usually stay on the Fisher: This tare land-would

with them?

Aiken: Yes, but not a great deal of it; but part of it would undoubtedly grow very good sugar cane. Fisher: Was it government land in Aiken: Yes sir.

have been made. A tract was ope up in the early days in Kahakuloa. But it was opened up in lots of too large an area. oMst of the people who applied for the lots were Hawaii-ernment? ans. The lands were also too dry. Aiken: There are some very choice tare lands, however, in Kahakulos. So that each nan received a lot of dry land and in addition got his taro land. It proved an entire failure as far as the upper lands were concerned. One of the lould be fenced. It was an absolute mpossibility to fence some of the lands. The Hawaiians cultivated the taro lands and paid no attention to the upper lands; the consequence was

that in time all the holdings were Fisher: The tare lands were included in the holdings, were they, and

Aiken: Yes sir. The taro land was a part of the let Fisher: Have these higher lands ever been susceptible to improvement

by anybody? Aiken: They are only good for second class pasture land;

Are they now being used for any-They are still being used by Hawallans for taro lands; the upper

lands are now under lease. To whom are they leased? They were originally leased in four lots to four Portuguese parties. They are now leased to two white men, I

What did they try to do with it?

Raise taro. What are the present holders trying to do with it? Raise taro. By combining the whole four lots and being able to

shift back and forth they hope to make something out of it. Then you don't think that land is matter of a great deal of import-

ance anyway.

Another tract of about 1000 acres cations at all. was opened up in the dry section of Fisher: Have the people actually Kula. That tract was cut up into 50 gone on the ground to live? away; but some are working for the acre lots. I think a mistake was Aiken: Most of them are not re. made at the time, and to be frank, I quired to be there until next April;

> When were they opened up? In Governor Carter's administration. You say that you were not in favor

of it at the time? Political Pressure:

tract was opened up. What do you mean by political pressure? Well, the influence of quite a num- Aiken: Yes, in addition to plowber of people was brought to bear on ing, clearing the lands and the pur-

Fisher: Do they own their lands? had a good deal to do with the failure, ter. That whole 1,000 acres was practically taken up by four families. How did the four families manage to take it up in 50 acre lots?

I don't think they were bons fide homesteaders; as some were boys from 18 to 21 years of age. Were they all boys and men, or were some of them girls? Some of them were girls.

How were they going to acquire hem -go up and live on the land? The sons and daughters lived there and the old men work the land. Did they finally acquire patent?

Yes, they finally acquired patent, What have they done with it? Well the four tracts are fenced in common and pigs are being raised on the land.

It is not a very high grade of land, then? No, it is second-class pasture land, What about any other experiment?

Before Frear's Administration. There are one or two other experiments. Right here I would explain tic conditions. They never got to the that those experiments to which I have referred were made before Governor Frear's administration.

> What since that time? Several different times there have been applications for homesteads and the opening up of tracts. In one or two instances I was instrumental in keeping the tracts from being opened up. When to my mind the conditions did not warrant their being opened I spoke very frankly. One tract of land has been opened up recently which lies between Makewao and Olina. I have had more or less to de

Fisher: What kind of land is it? Aiken: So far it has only been used as pasture land. I do not know of anything so far that could be profit-ably grown upon that tract. That is the reason why I have so far opposed it. A ranch corporation has been trying to secure it from the government. I feel that the government should hold on to those lands, and some time they can be used for something besides grazing land.

Pisher: Have there been any demands, for homesteading land under your jurisdiction where the land was adapted to the cultivation of coffee, cane or pineapples?

Alken: The tract which they are now homesteading at Haiku, and which was opened last year, is suit-able for pineapples. Fisher: Tell. is about that; how large a tract is that?

The Haiku Lands.

Aiken: This was originally private land owned by a plantation interest there. At the time of Governor Carthat the government try to secure possession of this tract by exchange There was some land that could have be adatped to sugar cane if these peo-ple were not living on it? been exchanged for it, which would have been of value to the plantation. but as far as the government's pu poses were concerned, it is practically valueless. I therefore recommended an exchange. However, Govern Carter did not take the matter up and when Governor Frear came into office, and during his first visit to Maui, I brought the matter up to him and he immediately took it up, sawthe advantage we could gain by owning it, and put the deal through, ac-

Fisher: What had it been used for prior to its acquirement by the gov-

Aiken: Just pasture land. Fisher: What do you think that land is, in fact, adapted to? Aikene In my opinion that is the best piheapple land in the Territory. Fisher: What has been the history

Aiken: It was opened up for home steading last year and given out to nia. I will say without the least hes itation that that is the first real homesteading, in my mind, that has been carried on in the Territory.

Fisher: How large are the tracts Alken: Approximately 40 acres. Fisher: And how many of them

have been taken up? Aiken: About 24 or 25, I think. Fisher: And are they all white Aiken: I think so.

Fisher: How large a portion them are from the mainland? Aiken: About half of them. Fisher: How did people on the mainland learn about the lands and become interested in them?

Aiken: Well, I think they learned about them from parties here. Fisher: Then some people here interested themselves in getting settlers from California?

Aiken: Yes, I think so. Fisher: Were there any other applicants for the land other than those

Aiken: I had never received any application. There was more or less talk about opening the lands, and a number of individual Portuguese came I think that the annual rental the to me from time to time and asked government is securing is worth about about the land, but nobody really aphalf as much as the lands themselves plied for it. At that time an official application had to be made at the What are the facts about any other main office here in Honolulu. I had never seen any other official appli-

> der right of purchase lease. Transportation Problem.

Fisher: Now take the transportation facilities there, how are they? Aiken: Well, that is one of the things that I have been rather agitating with the governor. The law No. I was not in favor of it. They states that the proceeds derived from were opening them up as agricultural the sale of public lands may be used lands and they were only second-class for the building of roads. Now the pasture lands. I think it was simply pineapple business is an expensive yielding to political pressure that the one to get started. It cost about \$125 an acre to get the lands planted. Fisher: He has to put that much

money in in addition to his labor?

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Aiken: Yes, I guess that would in- from the plantation into the able clude his own labor, which of course is of some value. Under the right of purchase lease system we are not supposed to receive any money on the does the freight have to be purchase price for three years. There-shipped? fore there is no money coming in with

which to build roads. Fisher: That is the road question: what about the question of steamboat

Aiken: We will have excellent freight rate to New York (we transportation facilities within the next few months. We have a good Mexico) is \$0.60 a hundred in that harbor, and steamers running direct lots. from New York and San Francisco to Kahului; and within the next six or eight months we will have a railroad completed right to this homestead

Fisher: What are the rates to be

Aiken: I don't know; the card of rates has not been issued. Are the dock facilities owned by the railroad company, the Government or the steamship company? They are owned by the railroad.

age facilities? lighter. What does it cost to lighter freight small tracts.

by wire cable or will there be dock-

Will the freight have to be sent out

Well, they charge usually at the rate of \$2.00 to \$2.50 a ton for railroad freight and lighterage. Then it costs from \$2.00 to \$2.50

Aiken: Yes. Fisher: Does the boat go the

trator and Selling A

most of our freight to New York

Have there ever been any all There are no cane lands b to the Government in Maul, exsome narrow strips near the m tains which have been under leas but which leases have not exp

Fisher: What is being done w Aiken: An application has ! made by some plantation for a re-It will have to be sent out now by newal of the lease. These lands are not large in areas; in fact, they

> Would they be appropriate It is a mere matter of se water to the lands. Without w (Continued on Page 7)

FISHER DENIES LACK OF SUPPORT FOR FREAR, RAPID TRANSIT EN DORSES PEACE POLICY. NEW ARMY ACT JOLTS OFFICERS. FIRE AT SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Y. M. C. A. READY FOR FALL WORK. DR. MARSHALL OPERATED ON SUCCESSFULLY, DEATH OF W. H. STONE,

Are titles of news items that appeared in this paper YESTERDAY -- twentyfour hours ago-and were given to the public while they were news.